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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Roland NOLL, et al.

Examiner: C. Thai

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Commissioner of Patents
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Technology Center 2100

RESPONSE AND ELECTION TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This *Response and Election* is filed, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, in reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on February 23, 2004, and the telephone interview with Examiner Retta on March 22, 2004.

Claims 1-72 are pending. The claims were originally restricted into group I (claims 1-18 and 63-66), group II (claims 37-52), and group III (claims 19-36, 53-61, 62, and 67-72). Group III was subsequently restricted into group I (claims 19-36), group II (claims 53-61, 62), and group III (claims 67-72). Applicants elect original group I, which include claims 1-18 and 63-66 without traverse.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Lee

Date: March 23, 2004

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